

YARS welcomes Col. Dignan
Kubli gets honorary star
910th conducts aerial spray course
76th APS sends humanitarian cargo
Airman uses training, saves life

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Story by Tech. Sgt. Brenda Cosola



U.S. Air Force Reserve Maj. Gen. Wallace W. "Wade" Farris, commander of 22nd Air Force, prepares for a change of command ceremony March 2, 2013 at YARS, while 910th Airlift Wing interim commander, Brig. Gen. Brian Dominguez, incoming 910th AW commander Col. James D. Dignan and 910th AW command chief Troy K. Rhoades salute him. Photo by TSgt. Brenda Cosola.

Col. James D. Dignan became commander of the 910th Airlift Wing during a change of command ceremony at YARS on March 3 as Maj. Gen. Wallace W. “Wade” Farris Jr, commander of the 22nd Air Force, passed the guidon representing the unit to him.

Dignan comes to the 910th AW from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., where he was the commander of the 446th Operations Group.

“The 910th has a great reputation, always has,” said Dignan. “I remember we used to bring our 130s here to get them fixed... this is one of the places we counted on. It’s an honor to be here.”

As commander of the 910th AW, Dignan is responsible for the training and readiness of more than 1,600 Air Force Reservists and has operational control of the C-130H Hercules tactical cargo aircraft assigned to the wing.

Dignan received his commission through U.S. Navy Aviation Officer Candidate School in 1990 and has held numerous staff positions and commanded at the group level.

“I knew [Dignan] from back when we flew C-130s together down at Keesler,” said Farris during the ceremony. “He’s a prop guy. He’s flown [more than 100 hurricane penetration missions] ... he’s familiar with special missions and you guys have a spray mission. He knows how to deal with the people that oversee those special missions, another reason why I selected him. He’s proven his leadership ability in several places. He knows how to take care of people.”

Dignan replaced Brig. Gen. Brian E. Dominguez, vice commander of the 22nd Air Force, who served as interim commander for the 910th AW for the past four months.

The 910th AW is home to the DoD’s only aerial spray capability to control disease-carrying insects, pest insects and undesirable vegetation and disperse oil spills in large bodies of water on DoD installations, in combat areas or in response to disasters and emergencies as declared by the president of the United States.



Top: U.S. Air Force Reserve Maj. Gen. Wallace W. Farris Jr. (left), commander of 22nd Air Force, returns a salute to U.S. Brig. Gen. Brian Dominguez, former 910th Airlift Wing commander as Col. James D. Dignan, new 910th Airlift Wing commander, watches and 910th Airlift Wing Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Troy Rhoades holds the guidon during a change of command ceremony March 2, 2013 here. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Matulka

Bottom left: U.S. Air Force Reserve Maj. Gen. Wallace W. Farris Jr., commander of 22nd Air Force, presents Col. James Dignan with the 910th Airlift Wing guidon during a change of command ceremony March 2, 2013 here. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Ron Dombkowski

Bottom right: A local media representative films a change of command ceremony March 2, 2013, here. U.S. Air Force Reserve Col. James Dignan assumes command of the 910th Airlift Wing from interim wing commander, Brig. Gen. Brian Dominguez. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Ron Dombkowski



Story by SSgt. Megan Tomkins

Four years ago, Fred Kubli Jr. received the rare and distinguished recognition of becoming an honorary colonel and commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, based at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio.



TSgt. Brenda Cosola

Newly promoted Brigadier Gen. (Hon) Fred Kubli, Jr., shares a few words with the crowd after receiving his rank. Kubli was promoted to the honorary rank for his selfless efforts at YARS and the Mahoning Valley over the past 30 years.

Brig. Gen. Brian Dominguez, 910th Airlift Wing Commander (left) and Brig. Gen. Karl McGregor, USAF Military Deputy Director of Strategic Planning, pin brigadier general rank on Fred Kubli Jr. during a ceremony here Feb. 3, 2013. Kubli was promoted to the honorary rank for his selfless efforts at YARS and the Mahoning Valley over the past 30 years.



TSgt. Brenda Cosola

Kubli was recognized again and promoted to honorary brigadier general by Brig. Gen. Brian E. Dominguez, 910th Airlift Wing Commander, Feb. 3, 2013.

"I can't believe I get the privilege and honor of promoting a true hero, Fred Kubli Jr., to honorary brigadier general," said Dominguez.

Ninety-three-year old Kubli, a World War II U.S. Army veteran and holocaust liberator, has been a part of the Youngstown family since the early 1980s.

After retiring from a more than 30-year career at a local titanium manufacturing plant, he has continued his support of the YARS Base-Community Council, other 910th activities such as the Pilot for a Day Program and more than two-dozen local organizations for the past three decades. Kubli continues to put others first and does not seek the limelight for what he does.

**"HE GAVE AND
GAVE AND
GAVE AND
CONTINUES TO
GIVE AND GIVE
AND GIVE."**

"The past 30 years he hasn't worked for a paycheck," said Dominguez. "He gave and gave and gave and he continues to give and give and give. From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you."

Dominguez recognized that Kubli was not able to accomplish all he has without the support of his wife of 69 years.

"The reason Fred has been so successful is because of you, LaVerne," said Dominguez. "You're his soul mate and teammate."

Kubli expressed his thanks and appreciation for the 910th family and his joy for getting to work with

the Air Force community for more than 30 years.

"I'm honored beyond any expectations," said Kubli. "I will do my best to honor this position, so help me, Lord. It's been a great experience and I will continue to enjoy it and will make this my number one project."



Courtesy Photo



This courtesy photo shows a young Fred Kubli, Jr., with his wife, LaVerne. Kubli was recently promoted to the rank of honorary Brigadier General for his more than 30 years of selfless service to Youngstown Air Reserve Station.



Left: Air Force Reserve members assigned to the 76th Aerial Port Squadron (APS) place a shoring system next to a C-17, here, February 2. A shoring system is a ramp APS built to help put a school bus into the aircraft.

Top right: Air Force Reserve Tech. Sgt. Brian Farminino, a loadmaster assigned to 437th Operations Group, Charleston Air Base, South Carolina, directs the driver to continue backing up the bus, here, February 2.

Bottom right: Air Force Reserve Master Sgt. Steve Kelley, a loadmaster assigned to 437th Operations Group, Charleston Air Base, South Carolina, helps direct a driver to put a school bus in place, here, February 2.



Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Valerie Smock

The 76th Aerial Port Squadron (APS) helped add another chapter to the story of love during the February Unit Training Assembly here. The story is the Mission of Love and the chapter is another shipment of cargo sent to a place in need.

The non-profit Mission of Love Foundation was established in 1989 by founder, director and Youngstown local, Kathleen Price. The organization provides humanitarian aid to those in need worldwide and provides basic human rights to the children who have none, according to the Mission of Love Foundation.

Airmen with 76th APS have been a part of the mission in the past. They have helped build pallets of supplies and sent them to different countries.

"We loaded a C-5 last summer for the Denton Program," said Technical Sgt. Brian E. Mitchell, an air transportation craftsman with 76th APS. "We're loading, you know, whatever. You don't think about it. Then [Kathy Price] kept thanking us. It makes you think, it meant a lot to her so it must be a good cause."

This time around the items were the second half of items, which included surgical supplies, delivered to Guatemala in December. The cargo on the second trip included corn, which will be used to help feed families, and a school bus. Some Mission of Love volunteers bought a bus from Poland schools in Ohio and donated it. The bus will be used for Mayan children who are orphans, blind, deaf, homeless or sick and in need of an education.

Service members from Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina, provided the C-17 aircraft to fly the supplies to Central America. The Airmen from Charleston and 76th APS worked together to load the aircraft, which included driving the bus onto the plane.

Volunteers from the Mission of Love said seeing the Airmen put the bus onto the plane was interesting. They said it was impressive to see the task get completed.

"The process was thought out well in advance to ensure everything went smoothly," said Technical Sgt. Keith L. Lenkner, an air transportation craftsman with 76th APS. "Our Airmen built a shoring system, which is basically a ramp to drive the bus into the plane. It's like a mathematical equation."

Multiplication and division aside, the only part of the process that could have been better, according to many of the Airmen battling the snow while loading the aircraft, would have been the subtraction of snow and addition of warmer weather. However, to some people, the wintry conditions were just another day on the job.

"The perk of the job is you get to work outdoors in all kinds of weather," said Master Sgt. Christopher Hornick, Air Transportation Craftsman non-commissioned officer in charge with 76th APS.

To help out or become involved with the Mission of Love Foundation, check out their website at: <http://www.missionoflove.org>.



STORY AND PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. BOB BARKO, JR.



Citizen Airmen from the Air Force Reserve's 910th Airlift Wing highly-specialized Aerial Spray unit are involved in the Department of Defense's (DoD's) Aerial Spray Course, Jan. 14-17, 2013. The course is being held at the new state-of-the-art Lee County Mosquito Control District Training Center in Lehigh Acres, Fla., just outside of Ft. Myers.

The purpose of the course is to acquaint participants with the theory and practice of the aerial application of pesticides, especially as it relates to the U.S. military. Upon graduating, participants receive a certificate of training documenting successful completion of the course. A letter is also sent to the graduate's certifying official recommending certification in DoD Category 11 Aerial Application Pest Control. Then, graduates of the course, that are also certified by their respective commands, are able to be ground supervisors of aerial spray operations, monitor pest control contracts using aerial spray and, if they are Command Pest Management Professionals, also approve DoD aerial spray projects.

Among many other subjects, the course topics include aerial spray theory, mapping and math, C-130 operations, public affairs, aerial spray contracting and more. Participants in the course also viewed static displays of aerial spray aircraft as well as equipment and were involved in a field exercise.

Events in recent years have now made the 910th's 757th Airlift Squadron home to DoD's only aerial spray mission. So, this team, based at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio, is uniquely qualified to present the course material to those attending.

"The 910th's role is to train DoD personnel and also give them an overview of civilian aerial spray aspects. We have a great relationship with the Florida Mosquito Control Association and it's an excellent opportunity to cross-train with them," said Lt. Col. Karl Haagsma, one of the 910th's two full-time entomologists, affectionately known as 'bug docs.' Haagsma and Lt. Col. Mark Briedenbaugh, the unit's other full-time entomologist are co-facilitators of the course.

(continued on next page)

Photos

Top: A participant of the Department of Defense Aerial Spray Course gets an up-close look at the mounting boom and nozzles of a Modular Aerial Spray System mounted aboard one of the Air Force Reserve 910th Airlift Wing's specially-modified, aerial spray capable C-130 aircraft on the flightline at Page Field, Fla., Jan. 15, 2013.

Middle: U.S. Air Force Reserve Maj. Pat Fassnacht (right), an aerial-spray qualified pilot, assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing's 757th Airlift Squadron, talks with a participant of the Department of Defense Aerial Spray Course on the flight deck of one of the wing's specially-modified, aerial spray capable C-130 aircraft on the flightline at Page Field, Fla., Jan. 15, 2013.

Bottom: U.S. Air Force Reserve Capt. Jonathan Blackann and U.S. Air Force Sr. Airman Thomas Davis work on an aerial spray mapping exercise together during the Department of Defense Aerial Spray Course at the Lee County Mosquito Control District Training Center, Lehigh Acres, Fla., Jan. 14, 2013.



MSgt. Bob Barko, Jr.



MSgt. Bob Barko, Jr.

(continued from page 8)

Haagsma, Breidenbaugh and the unit's three Traditional Reservist 'bug docs' bring a wealth of knowledge for the benefit of those attending the event. In addition to the entomologists, the 910th aerial spray team also includes spray-qualified pilots, aircraft loadmasters, who double as Modular Aerial Spray System (MASS) operators, during the aerial spray missions and specialized maintenance personnel, who take care of the modified C-130 'spray' aircraft and the MASS equipment that carry the product or 'ammunition' in the air war on the targeted pests.

"Since the Army and Navy stopped doing small-area aerial spraying with helicopters and small planes, we are now



MSgt. Bob Barko, Jr.

U.S. Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Tom Janousek, an entomologist assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing, studies sample cards, recently sprayed with water, simulating a pesticide solution, by one of the wing's highly-modified C-130 aircraft during a field exercise that is part of the Department of Defense Aerial Spray Course at the Lee County Mosquito Control District flightline, Lehigh Acres, Fla., Jan. 16, 2013.

DoD's only aerial spray unit. Just recently they even turned in their equipment so we're it," said Lt. Col. Don Teig, one of the unit's Traditional Reservist 'bug docs,' the Air Force's pest control subject matter expert and chairman of the Armed Forces Pest Management Board, based at Walter Reed Medical Center, Md.

For many years, the 910th was known as the DoD's only 'large-area, fixed-wing' aerial spray unit, meaning they would use their C-130 aircraft to spray areas larger than 5,000 square acres from altitudes above the ground of 100 to 150 feet, depending on the type of spraying being done. Teig indicated that private enterprise takes care of smaller areas that would not be practical or cost-effective for the unit's large planes to handle.

"Any small areas that used to be covered by the other branches of service are now done by contractors," said Teig.

While this information may seem involved and other parts of the curriculum may seem complicated to 'Joe or Jane Public,' the course's whole purpose is to educate and certify the participants in aerial spraying and how it can be used at their installations across the country and in some cases around the world to protect U.S. troops and the public from disease-carrying pests. In addition to the course fulfilling DoD certification requirements, Lt. Col. Mark Breidenbaugh said it is vital for participants to get the latest information about aerial spraying as often as possible.

"Ultimately, this course is about the judicious use of aerial spray products in eliminating pests and protecting troops. We are very careful when it comes to pesticides, we don't want to use too much or too little, just enough to accomplish the mission while protecting the environment as much as possible," said Breidenbaugh.

Although the idea and practice of protecting troops on the ground by destroying disease-carrying insects from the air has been around since 1946, the technology and aircraft involved has changed over time. The opportunity to see these 'weapons' in the aerial spray

'arsenal' up close and personal as well as the requirement for certification or recertification brought approximately 30 pest control professionals to the event.

In addition to Florida and Ohio, these specialists came from California, Kansas, Maryland, North Dakota, Texas and more from across the United States. They represented the Army, Air Force, Navy as well as the DoD's civilian branch, contractors and vendors. Sr. Airman Thomas Davis, a pest management specialist at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. said the knowledge and capabilities that the 910th team bring to the field of pest management would be helpful to him in the future.

"Prior to attending this course, I did not know aerial spray was at our disposal. If we can use this capability in the future, it will be much more efficient than fogging with trucks and it may help give the public (and our troops) a positive view of what we're doing (to protect them from disease-carrying pests)," said Davis.

While the 910th team may be the unique experts in the DoD when it comes to aerial spraying, Teig indicated that sometimes the teachers may pick up something from the course's students.

"This is the best place for us to train too. These are the best of the best (in the field of pest management) in the U.S. We all learn from each other's talents," said Teig.

Lt. Col. Tom Janousek, the 910th's third Traditional Reservist entomologist and a pest consultant based in Omaha, Neb. in his civilian work, agreed, noting that the course is a good place for sharing ideas and experience.

"The course is a good way to meet the people that we work with across the country. It's also a great environment to exchange ideas," said Janousek.

In addition to being the facilitators of this course, the 910th's unique mission has taken the aerial spray team all over the country to not only eliminate mosquitoes, sand fleas, filth flies and other pest insects on DoD installations but to also eliminate

unwanted vegetation on bombing ranges as well as assist during the response to the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

The only thing the team has not been called upon to do is part of its mission that dates back to the early days of the military's aerial spray concept, protect U.S. troops from disease carrying insects in combat zones. However, Capt. Kirk Mundal, one of the unit's newest Traditional Reserve 'bug docs,' a U.S. Navy veteran, living in Valley City, N.D., is ready for that assignment should it ever happen. As a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, he had the opportunity to help protect troops from disease-ridden creatures on many bases across Afghanistan.

"I look forward to that challenge should it ever arise. I love this mission. It's a great mission... to protect the troops and people like we do," said Mundal.

So, whether it is informing other specialists about the skill set the members of their team bring to the fight against pests and more across the country, spraying products to make combat ranges safer and more effective or to battle against natural, and in some cases, man-made disasters, the 910th's aerial spray unit is ready and able to carry out their unique mission wherever and whenever the call of duty may take them.



U.S. Air Force Reserve Chief Master Sgt. Don Cutrer (right), a loadmaster and aerial spray system operator assigned to the 910th Airlift Wing's 757th Airlift Squadron, talks with a participant of the Department of Defense Aerial Spray Course on the cargo deck of one of the 910th's specially-modified, aerial spray capable C-130 aircraft on the flightline at Page Field, Fla., Jan. 15, 2013.



Since 2009, the 910th Airlift Wing color guard has performed almost 1500 details including military funerals, weddings, parades, colors presentations, and retirement ceremonies.

They are looking for a few good Airmen to help represent the Air Force and the Wing with pride and dignity.

Contact MSgt. Lafayette Smith at 609-1893 for more information.

Story and photo by Mr. Eric M. white

In the early morning, you're driving through the city when you see two men pushing a stalled vehicle. You stop to see if they need help, and another vehicle strikes the two men against their car, fracturing one man's leg and severing the other's below the knee. The victim with the severed leg is bleeding profusely and showing signs of shock. What do you do?

The morning of Feb. 5, 2013, U.S. Air Force Reserve Senior Airman

Steve Cresanto, an air transportation journeyman with Youngstown Air Reserve Station's 76th Aerial Port Squadron, was driving through Youngstown, Ohio when this scenario became reality, forcing him to make such decisions.

Jawkwan Rudolph, one of the victims, had the most serious injuries.

"His leg was amputated. You want to stop the hemorrhaging, so I applied a tourniquet," said Cresanto.

Without a medical tourniquet, Cresanto had to make one.

"I didn't have a tourniquet there, so I made one. I made the tourniquet out of the individual's belt and a windshield wiper from the car that struck them," said Cresanto.

Cresanto then fashioned a splint for the second victim's fractured leg using an ice scraper and another belt.

When first responders arrived at the scene of the accident, they asked Cresanto where he learned to do what he did, stating that his actions likely saved Rudolph's life. Cresanto credited the Self Aid Buddy Care

(SABC) training he receives annually as an Air Force Reservist.

"We do it every single year, do the training, and I never thought I would actually use it in the field. It turns out I did, and I am glad I had the training," said Cresanto.

SABC training includes basic life support and limb-saving techniques to help injured persons survive until medical help arrives.

Charles Sammarone, Youngstown city mayor, presented Cresanto with an award on behalf of the city at a city council meeting March 6.

Detective/Sergeant Patricia Garcar, one of the first responders to the accident, recommended Cresanto for the award and presented at the council meeting her account of what unfolded the morning of the accident.

"I was just so impressed with what he did. He did not have to stop and didn't have to offer the assistance that he did, and it just amazed me," said Garcar.

Cresanto is one of more than 1600 Citizen Airmen stationed at Youngstown Air Reserve Station who have answered the nation's call to fulfill the Air Force's core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.

"This is just another amazing example of the Airmen that we have here and the tie that we have to the community," said Col. James D. Dignan, 910th Airlift Wing commander. "There's a sense of family here at the 910th Airlift Wing."

**"THIS IS JUST
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Youngstown City Mayor Charles Sammarone (left) reads the citation accompanying an award presented to Air Force Reserve Senior Airman Steve Cresanto (right) March 6 at Youngstown City Hall, Ohio.

910th 2012 Of the Year winners

The 2012 "Of the Year" award winners:

Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Matthew Wilcox
Security Forces Squadron

NCO of the Year

Tech. Sgt. John Lucas
Security Forces Squadron

SNCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Michael Bullard
Security Forces Squadron

First Sergeant of the Year

Master Sgt. Robert Fisher
Communications Squadron

Company Grade Officer of the Year

Capt. Casey Stedman
773rd Airlift Squadron

The quarterly and yearly awards are open to all enlisted personnel and Company Grade Officers.

The nominees are selected by their supervisors and commanders to represent their units at a wing level board.

Col. Patrick Slattery, 910th Airlift Wing Vice Commander, said the Airman's efforts show their true commitment to the wing.

"So much of what we do; we ask you to do things with no promise of reward," Slattery said. "We can say, 'we need this done' and you're here because you did it. That is really a truly remarkable thing."

"Remember, we are only as good as we are as a team," said Slattery. "So when we take time to recognize people who are doing outstanding work, it makes this all better."

Congratulations on a job well done to the deserving Airmen receiving Of the Year awards for 2012.

STORY BY TECHNICAL SGT. VALERIE SMOCK



This 2012 file photo shows the 910th Airlift Wing Maintenance Group in formation with 910th Airlift Wing C-130H Hercules aircraft in the background. US Air Force Col. David C. Post assumed command of the 910th Maintenance Group on March 2, 2013. US Air Force photo by Technical Sgt. Matt Matulka

US Air Force Reserve Col. David C. Post assumed command of the 910th Maintenance Group (MXG) March 2 during a ceremony in Hangar 295 here.

Post accepted command from Col. James D. Dignan, 910th Airlift Wing (AW) commander and assumed command from Col. Don Richie, 910th Operations Group Deputy commander.

The assumption of command ceremony is deeply rooted in history and tradition, dating back to the time of Frederick the Great of Prussia. During this period, military organizations developed unique and specialized flags. When Soldiers followed their leaders into battle, and the flag still waved after the conflict, it was a sign of victory.

Having this position of great importance,

the flag was incorporated into ancient assumption of command ceremonies. The ceremony remains symbolic today.

During the ceremony, Dignan emphasized that Post will lead a group with a tremendous reputation.

"[MXG Airmen] have a great reputation to uphold and [MXG Airmen] have a great officer here to help get you there," said Dignan.

Post joined the active duty Air Force in 1986 and became a reservist in 1993. This isn't his first time leading others. Prior to his current position, he was a reserve advisor assigned to the Air Force District of Washington, Joint Base Andrews, Md.

Post traveled around the country for many years, serving at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., Fort Dix, N.J. and Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. His wife,

Regina, of 26 years traveled alongside him.

"She has been with me since 11th grade and has continuously supported me throughout my career," said Post.

Post now looks for support from the new Airmen he will lead. He said it can, at times, be a job that may not be appreciated for all that is accomplished.

"Sometimes we feel like we don't always get the recognition we deserve," said Post. "I hope you don't get tired of me saying thank you. You do make these things happen."

Post said when a new commander joins the ranks there can be apprehension about changes that could be made. He assured the MXG will be business as usual unless deemed necessary to change.

"I will only make changes if it is needed to improve our organization, if it is an

effort to ensure safety or the safety of those that fly in our aircraft and if it is to ensure we are complying with tech data and AFIs and maintaining the standards our country demands of us," said Post.

With all of those demands, there remains confidence from the leadership of the 910th AW that Post will lead the Airman to get the job done.

"He'll take care of you and get you into the future," said Dignan.

Even though Post has only been at YARS for a short time, he said he has faith in what his group can do.

"You can see it in the aircraft, the pride that you have," said Post. "What you do here is important. From what I've seen, your work ethic is some of the best that I have seen in the command."

The facts on Col. Post

EDUCATION

1986 Bachelor of Science, electrical engineering, Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

1991 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

1997 Master of Air Mobility, advanced study of air mobility, Air Force Institute of Technology, Headquarters Air Mobility Warfare Center, Fort Dix, N.J.

1998 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence

2005 Air War College, by correspondence

2009 Air Force Enterprise Leadership Seminar, University of Virginia - Darden School of Business, Va.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. November 1986 - March 1987, student, aircraft/munitions maintenance officers' course, Lowry AFB, Colo.

2. March 1987 - March 1990, aircraft maintenance officer, 27th Tactical Fighter Wing, Cannon AFB, N.M.

3. March 1990 - February 1991, aircraft maintenance officer, 57th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Keflavik Naval

Air Station, Iceland

4. February 1991 - January 1992, aircraft maintenance officer, 52nd Training Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

5. January 1992 - December 1992, wing weapons safety/nuclear surety officer, 52nd Training Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

6. March 1993 - August 1995, air freight/air terminal operations center officer, 92nd Aerial Port Squadron, Wyoming, Pa.

7. August 1995 - February 1997, student, Air Mobility Warfare Center, Fort Dix, N.J.

8. February 1997 - February 1998, maintenance officer trainee, 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.

9. February 1998 - May 2000, squadron maintenance officer/senior Air Reserve Technician, Aircraft Generation Squadron and Maintenance Squadron, 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass.

10. May 2000 - February 2001, Deputy Logistics Group Commander, 439th Airlift Wing, Westover Air Reserve Base,

Mass.

11. February 2001 - March 2003, chief, force management and logistics programs, HQ AFRC, Robins AFB, Ga.

12. March 2003 - February 2005, chief, aircraft maintenance specialist branch, HQ AFRC, Robins AFB, Ga.

13. February 2005 - October 2008, Maintenance Group Commander, 459th Air Reserve Wing, Andrews AFB, Md.

14. October 2008 - July 2009, Director, Office of Air Force Reserve Active Guard and Reserve Management Office, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

15. July 2009 - present, reserve advisor, Air Force District of Washington, Joint Base Andrews, Md.

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant Aug. 15, 1986

First Lieutenant Aug. 15, 1988

Captain Aug. 15, 1990

Major July 14, 1999

Lieutenant Colonel Sept. 30, 2004

Colonel Feb. 7, 2008

(Current as of July 2011)



U.S. Air Force Reserve Col. James Dignan presents Col. David Post with the 910th Maintenance Group guidon during an assumption of command ceremony March 2, 2013 here. Post began his tenure as group commander immediately following the ceremony. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Ron Dombkowski

PERSONALITY PROFILE

INSTALLATION COMMANDER COLONEL JAMES DIGNAN

Story by Eric M. White

As a four-year-old, a boy named James took his first airplane trip, flying on an American Airlines DC-10 aircraft. He flew from Los Angeles to Detroit to see his grandparents. That trip ignited a love for aviation that would eventually lead James to become U.S. Air Force Reserve Colonel James D. Dignan, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio. As the commander, he directs the training and readiness of more than 1,600 Air Force Reservists, manages more than 400 civilian employees and controls the operation of nine C-130H Hercules tactical cargo aircraft assigned to the wing.

Dignan was looking for an interesting and motivating career. He'd been interested in aviation most of his life, so he searched for the best pilots and training opportunities. This led him to the U.S. military.

Dignan was commissioned through the U.S. Navy Aviation Officer Candidate School at NAS Pensacola, Fla., and received his wings of gold at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas. He has served as an officer and pilot in the U.S. Navy, Air National Guard and for the most recent 16 years, the Air Force Reserve. As a command pilot, he has more than 6,500 hours in trainer, patrol, reconnaissance and airlift aircraft.

According to his official biography, Dignan has flown more than 100 hurricane penetration missions in the WC-130H. He has also flown combat and combat-support missions throughout the Balkans, the Horn of Africa and Southwest Asia.

For Dignan, coming to YARS is a great opportunity.

"Youngstown always had a great reputation and getting here and finally getting to meet the people... I see why," said Dignan, "It's a very close close-knit family."

As a leader, Dignan sees taking care of people as mission critical, noting that there are many ways to do that.

"We have to help folks with their readiness and readiness has many tiers: it's personal health, mental health, healthy

families, healthy work environments,"

Dignan said. "We have some great people. It's my job to help identify and help point out and help recognize those individuals that go above and beyond. It's a pretty easy job really."

Accountability is also a paradigm of Dignan's leadership style.

"Each one of us has to be held accountable, accountable to the taxpayer, accountable to each other and of course accountable to the rules and regulations, the AFIs and the guidance from the Air Force and DoD," he said. "If we all do that and live by the mantra 'treat others as you want to be treated, it all takes care of itself. I'll always come back to the bottom line: What do the regulations say, what is the precedence and what is the right thing to do?"

Dignan sees the sense of family as YARS's greatest asset, and he looks forward to building upon that during his tenure as wing commander.

"I would like to expand that sense of family beyond so that everyone in the Mahoning Valley knows what we all know inside these gates; that this is the hardest working group of folks in Eastern OH, and we've got real synergies here," Dignan said,

"I want to draw in more of the community whether it's over in Western Penn. or Eastern Ohio to draw on the strengths and capabilities we have here."

Apart from work, Dignan is a family man. When he leaves the base each day, his job is to just be 'dad.' Working a lot is part of the job, but Dignan made a promise to his three young girls a long time ago that he wouldn't bring work home. At YARS, he is Colonel Dignan; at home, he's simply 'dad.'

Dignan, in fact, attributes his career as an Air Force colonel and base commander to his family.

"The only reason I'm still serving; the only reason I'm here today is because my wife continues to support me doing this," said Dignan. "I reached a point about ten years ago where I was ready to leave the ART program and ready to retire and leave the Reserve. She enjoys being part of a family that is involved in something larger than us, and it's a big commitment and a big sacrifice on their part."

Despite stepping into a commander role during a year when words like sequestration and furlough are common, Dignan looks forward to continued mission excellence and building the YARS family.



U.S. Air Force Reserve Maj. Gen. Wallace W. "Wade" Farris, commander of 22nd Air Force, prepares for a change of command ceremony March 2, 2013 here, while 910th Airlift Wing interim commander, Brig. Gen. Brian Dominguez, incoming 910th AW commander Col. James D. Dignan and 910th AW command chief Troy K. Rhoades salute him. Dignan comes to the 910th AW from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., where he served as commander of the 446th Operations Group. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Matulka

Col. James D. Dignan is commander of the 446th Operations Group, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. He is responsible for the supervision and leadership of a flying group with more than 650 members; the group consists of three airlift squadrons, an aeromedical evacuation squadron and an operations support flight. Colonel Dignan supervises the administrative and operations functions of the group on a daily basis. He is also responsible for all matters pertaining to the group's operational readiness and combat effectiveness. This group provides worldwide movement of high priority personnel and cargo; missions range from local pilot proficiency training, aeromedical evacuation and worldwide strategic airlift, to night vision goggle low level short field assault operations.

Colonel Dignan received his commission through the U.S. Navy Aviation Officer Candidate School at NAS Pensacola, Fla., and received his "Wings of Gold" at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas. He has served as an officer and pilot in the U.S. Navy, the Air National Guard, and the Air Force Reserve. Colonel Dignan is a command pilot with more than 6,500 hours in trainer, patrol, reconnaissance and airlift aircraft. He has flown combat and combat-support missions in the Balkans, the Horn of Africa, and Southwest Asia. Colonel Dignan has also flown more than 100 hurricane penetration missions in the WC-130H.

EDUCATION

1989 Bachelor of Science, psychology and sociology, University of the State of New York, Albany, N.Y.
 1996 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
 2004 Air Command and Staff College (correspondence)
 2004 Leaders of the 21st Century, George Marshall European Center for Security Studies
 2007 Air War College, (correspondence)
 2009 Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
 2009 Master of Science, national resource strategy, National Defense University, Washington, D.C.
 1. November 1989 - May 1990, aviation officer candidate school, NAS Pensacola, Fla.
 2. May 1990 - August 1991, flight training, Naval Aviation Schools Command, NAS Corpus Christi, Texas
 3. August 1991 - Feb 1992, P-3 flight training, Patrol Squadron THIRTY ONE, NAS Moffett Field, Calif.
 4. February 1992 - October 1995, P-3 pilot, Patrol Squadron SEVENTEEN, NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii
 5. October 1995 - January 1997, logistics plans and programs officer, 272nd Combat Communications Squadron, Portland International Airport, Ore.
 6. January 1997 - July 1998, operations plans officer, 913th

Airlift Wing, Willow Grove Air Reserve Base, Pa.
 7. July 1998 - July 2003, chief, standardization and evaluation, 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.
 8. July 2003 - January 2005, chief, operations group training, 403rd Operations Group, Keesler AFB, Miss.
 9. January 2005 - June 2006, director of operations, 403rd Operations Support Flight, Keesler AFB, Miss.
 10. June 2006 - July 2008, director of operations, 357th AS, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
 11. August 2008 - June 2009, student, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, DC
 12. July 2009 - September 2010, deputy commander, 512th Operations Group, Dover AFB, Del.
 13. October 2010 - May 2011 - deputy chief of plans to the U.S. Security Coordinator for Israel and Palestine, U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem
 14. October 2010 - present, commander 446th Operations Group, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight hours: More than 6,500

Aircraft flown: T-34C, T-44A, P-3A/C, C-130E/H/H2/H3, WC-130H/J, C-130J/-30 and C-17A

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal with one silver and two bronze oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Meritorious Unit Award

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Combat Readiness Medal with one silver oak leaf cluster

National Defense Service Medal with bronze star

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze star

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Korean Defense Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal with bronze star

Humanitarian Service Medal with two bronze stars

Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 2 'M' Devices and Hourglass Device

Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short

Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with bronze star

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border

and bronze oak leaf cluster

Air Force Longevity Service with four oak leaf clusters

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon

Navy Expert Pistol Shot Medal

Navy Expert Rifle Medal

Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Kuwait)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

AND AFFILIATIONS

Air Force Association Life Member

Airlift Tanker Association Life Member

Military Officers Association Life Member

Reserve Officers Association Life Member

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

U.S. Navy

Ensign Aug. 1, 1991

Lieutenant Junior Grade Aug. 2, 1993

Lieutenant Aug. 1, 1995

U.S. Air Force

Captain Oct. 5, 1995

Major April 21, 2001

Lieutenant colonel Aug. 2, 2007

Colonel Feb. 17, 2012



U.S. Air Force Reserve Tech. Sgt. Donald M. Gonzales, structural maintenance technician with the 910th Maintenance Squadron here, makes adjustments on a unique project Jan. 16, 2013 at the paint shop here. Gonzales, a native of Valley City and Airman with the 910th Airlift Wing for approximately 13 years, is building a scale C-130 nose mock-up that will hang inside the C-130 Bar and Grille at the Community Activity Center here. U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Brenda Cosola